



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES*  
*A Healthcare Service Agency*

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN  
Commissioner

**Testimony by Patricia Rehmer, MSN, Commissioner**  
**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**  
**Before the Public Health Committee**  
**March 8, 2013**

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am Commissioner Patricia Rehmer of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and I am here this morning to speak on **HB 5992** An Act Concerning the Treatment of Persons With Psychiatric Disabilities. The Department has many concerns regarding the bill before you today.

HB 5992 would allow for the sharing of information regarding an individual's psychiatric care without their consent. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will prevent most of this from occurring. HIPAA does not recognize family exceptions to the necessity for release of information from the patient for treatment planning. In addition, Connecticut already has a "treater-to-treater exception" for release of records in 52-146f (1) [for psychiatrists] and 52-146q (6)(c)(1) [for social workers]. The psychiatrist exception allows facilities/centers with a psychiatrist medical director to utilize this exception under the psychiatrist's direction.

Once again, DMHAS has concerns about any legislation that though well intentioned, may create additional barriers to psychiatric treatment.